Steps to reduce helicopter crashes

3589. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the armed forces have lost 35 helicopters in crashes in the last five years;

(b) whether it s fact that helicopter accidents the world over have been reduced by 75 per cent in the last two decades but crashes of both civilian and military choppers in India seem to be increasing;

(c) if yes, whether Government has make any investigation in this matter; and

(d) the steps Government proposed to take to reduce the number of helicopter crashes?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) A total number of 37 helicopters of the Armed forces were lost during the last five years.

(b) Official data of helicopter accidents across the world are not available therefore, no comparison can be made.

(c) All helicopter accidents are investigated thoroughly to establish the cause of the accident and institute remedial measures.

(d) The following measures have been taken to reduce the number of helicopter crashes:-

(i) Constant reviews of flight safety of operational/maintenance units through inspections and training.

(ii) Simulators are increasingly being used for training of pilots.

(iii) analysis of specific accidents/incidents is undertaken and circulated to units in the form of Reports.

(iv) Focussed training prior to commencement of difficult operation phases of flying has been implemented.

(v) Pilots found weak in specific areas are retrained.

(vi) dissemination of material on safety concepts through Flight Safety Journals.